

How to cut the wire inside the optical cable shorter



Overview

Cutting fiber optic cables is much like cutting conventional cables, with only a slight difference. Remove the outer wire jacket.

Key Takeaways

To shorten the internal fiber in an optical cable, carefully strip the outer jacket, expose the fiber, and use a fiber optic cleaver or precision scissors to make a clean cut. Step-by-Step Process

1. Prepare the Work Area and Safety Gear Always wear safety glasses and work in a clean, well-lit area. Fiber shards are extremely sharp and can cause injury if handled improperly . 2. Strip the Outer Jacket Use a fiber optic cable stripper to remove the outer sheath of the cable. This exposes the internal fibers without damaging them. Tools like the FOS03 or CFS-2 strippers allow you to remove the jacket and coatings in precise layers . 3. Clean the Fiber After stripping, clean the exposed fiber with isopropyl alcohol wipes to remove any debris or contaminants . 4. Cut the Fiber

- For thin fibers (0.25–1.0 mm), sharp scissors can be used.
- For medium fibers (1.5–3.0 mm), use jewelers snips or wire cutters.
- For larger or armored cables, a heavy-duty PVC or cable cutter is recommended .

- For precise, clean cuts, a fiber optic cleaver is ideal. It ensures the end face is flat and perpendicular to the fiber axis, which is critical for maintaining signal quality . 5. Remove Aramid or Strength Members If the cable contains aramid fibers or internal strength members, cut them carefully with scissors or pliers after the jacket is removed . 6. Smooth the Ends After cutting, lightly sand any rough edges with fine-grit sandpaper to prevent fiber damage during splicing or connectorization . 7. Prepare for Splicing or Connectorization Once the fiber is cut to the desired length, it can be spliced or terminated using appropriate connectors or fusion splicing equipment .

Tips and Considerations

- Always use high-quality tools to avoid crushing or cracking the fiber.
- Avoid bending the fiber sharply; maintain a gentle bend radius.
- Dispose of fiber scraps safely to prevent injury.
- If unsure, consider professional training or watching detailed tutorials for your specific cable type . By following these steps, you can safely shorten the internal wire of an optical cable while maintaining its performance and integrity.

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